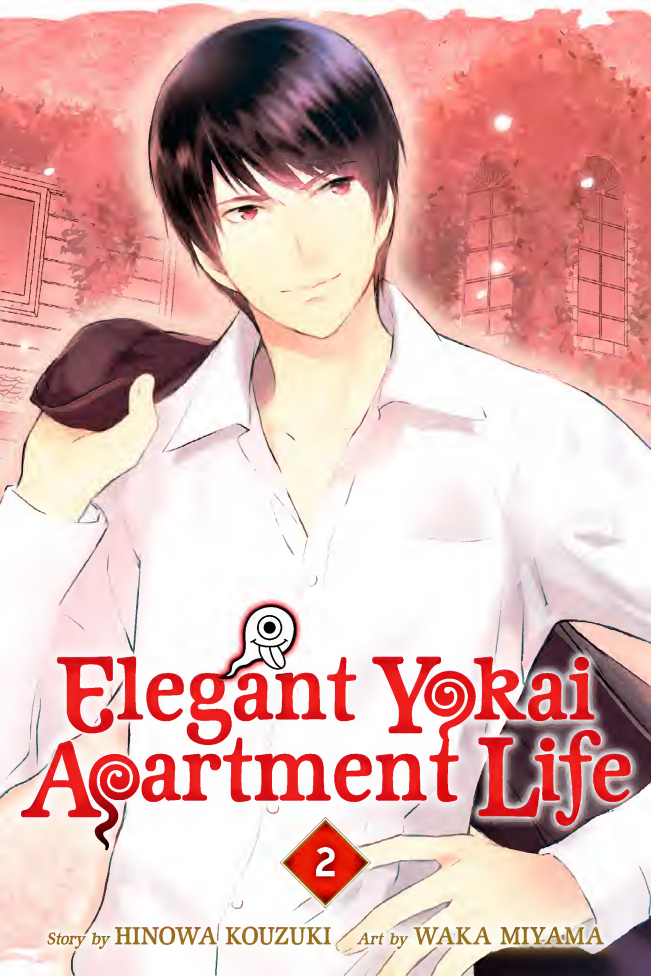




Elegant Yokai Apartment Life

2

Story by HINOWA KOUZUKI Art by WAKA MIYAMA





Elegant Yokai Apartment Life



2

Story by HINOWA KOUZUKI Art by WAKA MIYAMA

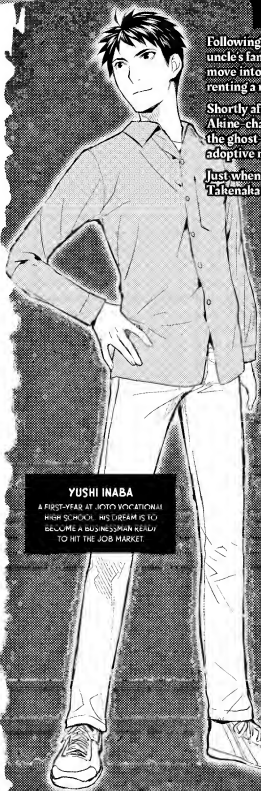
Elegant Yokai Apartment Life

THE STORY SO FAR

Following the death of his parents, Yushi Inaba (age 16) was taken in by his uncle's family. Through a tragic twist of fate, the dorm he was scheduled to move into upon entering high school burns to the ground, and he ends up renting a room at Kotobuki Manor, also known as the Yokai Apartment.

Shortly after moving in, his world is blown wide open after he witnesses Aline-chan exorcise a vengeful spirit, tastes the heartwarming cooking of the ghost-hands chef, Ruriko-san, and learns that a sacred wolf spirit is the adoptive mother of Kuri, a child who was brutally abused and murdered.

Just when Yushi is starting to overcome his close-mindedness, his classmate Takenaka shows up at the apartment with a group of delinquents



YUSHI INABA

A FIRST-YEAR AT JOTO VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL. HIS DREAM IS TO BECOME A BUSINESSMAN RELAY TO HIT THE JOB MARKET.



POET

NAME: REIME ISSHIKI
A POET AND FAIRY-TALE WRITER.



AKINE KUGA

AN EXORCIST AND A SECOND-YEAR AT JAKANOMIJI HIGH SCHOOL. AN UNEXPECTED GILTY.



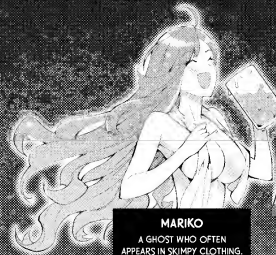
MIZUKI HASE

A FIRST-YEAR AT A PRESTIGIOUS HIGH SCHOOL AND YUSHI'S BEST FRIEND SINCE THEIR THIRD YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.



PAINTER

NAME: AKIRA FUKASE
IS ACTUALLY 48-YEARS OLD. SUPPOSEDLY HUMAN.



MARIKO

A GHOST WHO OFTEN APPEARS IN SKIMPY CLOTHING. SUPPOSEDLY 219.



ANTIQUARY

REAL NAME UNKNOWN. SELLER OF UNUSUAL WARES AND ACCOMPANIED BY MYSTERIOUS HELPERS.



RYU

REAL NAME UNKNOWN. DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A HUMBLE MYSTIC.



KURI AND SHIRO

A LITTLE BOY AND DOG GHOST DUO.



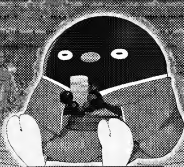
RURIKO

THE GHOST COOK OF THE YOKAI APARTMENT. ONLY HAS HANDS.



SATO

A GHOST WHO WORKS FOR THE MAJOR COMPANY SOIR COSMETICS.



LANDLORD

LANDLORD OF THE YOKAI APARTMENT.



ERIKO

YUSHI'S COUSIN WHOM HE LIVED WITH AFTER HIS PARENTS DIED.



Elegant Yokai Apartment Life

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C'MON,
MAN.

LET'S
ALL PARTY
TOGETHER.

CH. 6

Kuri and Shiro (Vol. 3)



TAKE-
NAKA...

YOU...



BETTER
NOT
TRY.

COULD
PROBABLY
BURN THE
PLACE TO
THE GROUND
WITH A
SINGLE
MATCH.

MAN, THIS
PLACE IS A
DUMP.

COMING THROUGH.

HEY!







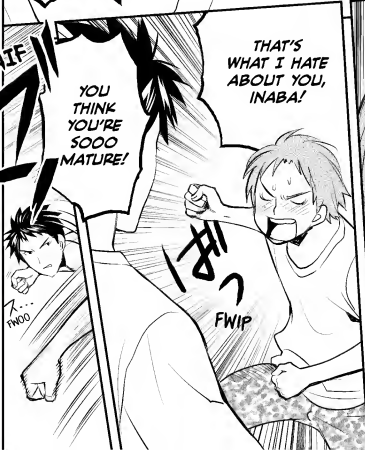
I'M
RIGHT,
AREN'T I?
WHAT
THE HELL
SORT OF
RESOLVE
DO YOU
HAVE?

I BET
YOU JUST
THOUGHT
THIS
SEEMED
COOL
OR FUN,
AND YOU
WANTED
TO WHINE
ABOUT THE
WORLD!

WHEN
SHIT HITS
THE FAN,
CAN YOU
REALLY SAY
YOU'D BE
WILLING TO
SEE THINGS
THROUGH?

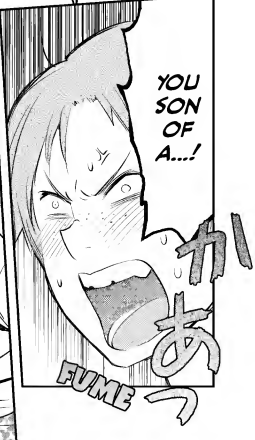


PLAYING
?



THAT'S
WHAT I HATE
ABOUT YOU,
INABA!

YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
SOOO
MATURE!



YOU
SON
OF
A...!

FWIP

FUME

**I
DIDN'T
CHOOSE
TO
GROW
UP!**



**YOU
LITTLE
SHIT!**

**WHY
DON'T
YOU TRY
WORKING
FOR A
DELIVERY
COMPANY?**

FWIP

**YOUR
BALANCE
IS ALL
OFF.**



SIX ON
ONE IS
PUSHING
IT...!

DAMN
IT!

クダアア!
YOU'RE SO COOL,
YUSHI-KUN!

WHACK
ヅ
ヅ

THESE
PEOPLE...

HA, HA, HA!
GIVE US
A GOOD
SHOW NOW,
BOYS!

CHEERS
!

FOR
SUCH A
CUTIE,
YOU SURE
HAVE A
WILD SIDE!

SLIP
ズ
ズ

WHA—

SIL-
LENCE,
YOU
BRATS
!



JOLT



GO
TO
HELL!





THEY
WERE
ONI ALL
ALONG
?!

...THE
OLD
GUYS
WHO
WERE
PLAYING
MAH-
JONG
?!

ARE
THEY
...

THOSE
HANTEN*
COATS
AND
BLACK
HANDS...

GRAP
GRAP
GRAP

*Hanten: A traditional Japanese short winter coat

GLARE

WH-

WHAT
THE?!

FWOOSH



THEY'RE
HERE...

...ARE
WATCH-
ING.

THE
UNSEEN
ONES...

HEY,
YOU
GUYS.

UNDERSTAND
NOW? KEEP
YOUR HANDS
OFF YUSHI-
KUN IF YOU
KNOW WHAT'S
GOOD FOR
YOU.

THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS IN
THIS WORLD
YOU SIMPLY
SHOULDN'T
MEDDLE
WITH.



















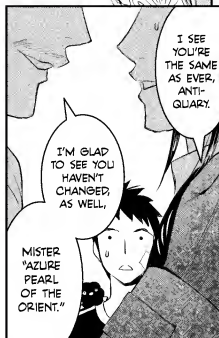
OOH! MASU SALMON!



YEAH...

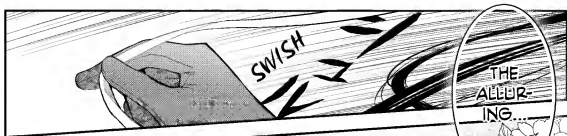


NO FIGHTING, EVERYONE.



I SEE YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER, ANTI-QUARY.











**GOOD
LUCK,
BOY!**



**A-ARE
YOU
SURE?!**

**THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH!**

**MAY
WE MEET
AGAIN
SOMEDAY!**



...I WILL.



**TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR-
SELF.**



**DON'T
FORGET
ABOUT
US,
OKAY?**

**THAT'S
RIGHT,
BOY.**



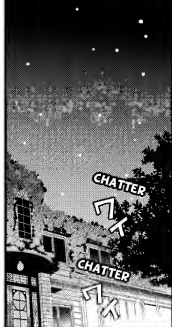
HEH,
HEH.

IT'S NICE
THAT HE
GAVE YOU
THAT
PENDANT,
HUH?



THEY'LL
PROBABLY
BE AT IT
UNTIL
MORNING.
I CAN'T
KEEP UP.

MAN,
THEY'RE
STILL
DRINK-
ING...



CHATTER

CHATTER



OKAY,
MY
TURN.

IT
DEFI-
NITELY
WILL!



I'VE
NEVER
GOTTEN
ANYTHING
LIKE THIS
BEFORE,

BUT WHEN
I HEARD
RYU-SAN'S
HAIR IS
INSIDE, I HAD
A FEELING
IT MIGHT
ACTUALLY
WORK.



MAY
YOU
HAVE THE
NORMAL
LIFE YOU
HOPE
FOR...

I'LL
PUT MY
PRAYERS
INTO IT,
TOO.



HUH?

SWIF



...EVEN-
TUALLY
FADES
FROM MY
MEMORY,

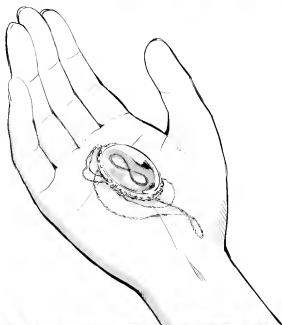
EVEN IF
THE TIME
I SPENT
HERE...



SO, MORE
THAN A LUCKY
CHARM, I THINK
I JUST WANTED
SOMETHING TO
REMEMBER THIS
PLACE BY.

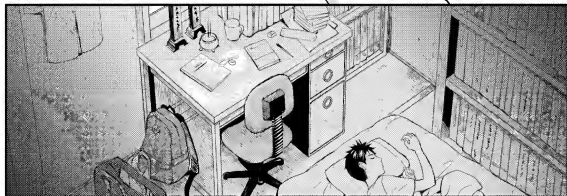


IT SURE
WAS A
WEIRD SIX
MONTHS.



...THAT IT
WASN'T
ALL JUST
A DREAM.

THIS
WILL BE
PROOF...



AND SO,

AS
SOON AS
SEPTEMBER
CAME
AROUND,

I MOVED
OUT OF THE
APARTMENT.







I MOVED
INTO THE
NEWLY
BUILT
DORM.

WITH THE
START
OF THE
SECOND
TERM,



KINDA
FEELS
LIKE WE
LUCKED
OUT,
HUH?

WHOOOA.

EVERY-
THING
REALLY IS
BRAND
NEW.



HUH...

AND I
HEAR THE
FOOD
HERE'S
PRETTY
GREAT,
TOO!

COUGH

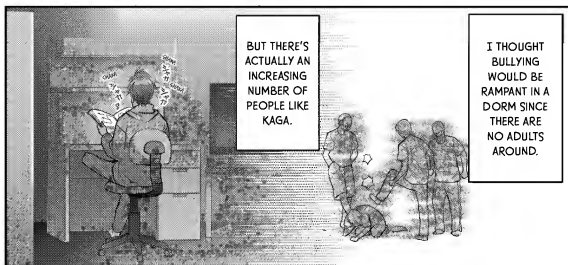
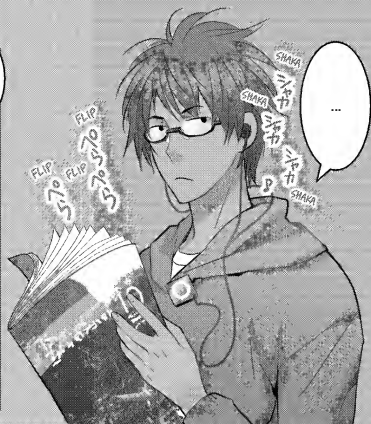


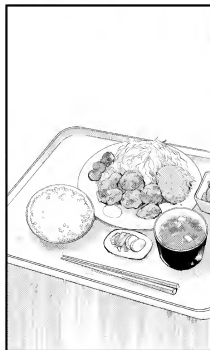
SINCE
THE RENT'S
THE SAME,
I'LL TAKE
A NEW
BUILDING
ANY DAY!

THE OLD
DORM WAS
AROUND
30 YEARS
OLD.

THIS IS
HIROYUKI
ISHII, A
FIRST-YEAR
SHARING THE
SAME THREE-
PERSON
ROOM
AS ME.









HE CUT
HER
BODY
INTO
PIECES.

TO
THIS DAY,
MOST
OF THE
PIECES
HAVEN'T
BEEN
FOUND.

SHE WAS
MURDERED
BY A
CUSTOMER
WHO'D
STALKED HER
SINCE HER
HOSTESS
DAYS.

AND JUST
AS SHE WAS
ABOUT TO
OPEN THE
RESTAURANT
OF HER
DREAMS,

RURIKO-
SAN
QUIT HER
JOB AS A
HOSTESS,

WAS HER
OWN TWO
HANDS.

AS SHE DIED
BEFORE
SHE COULD
REALIZE HER
DREAM, THE
LAST THING
RURIKO-SAN
SAW...

I'm very
happy now
because my
wish has
come true.

SCIT
44
44
SCIT 44

WHY
WON'T
YOU REST
IN PEACE,
RURIKO-
SAN?

FILLED
WITH HER
HEARTFELT
DESIRE TO
LET PEOPLE
ENJOY HER
COOKING.

EVERY
SINGLE
DISH SHE
MAKES IS
A TOKEN
OF HER
DREAM,

RURIKO-
SAN'S
COOKING
WAS SO
FULL OF
LOVE.

MAYBE
THAT'S
WHY.



FWIP
SWIPE

I GAVE
YOU AN
EXTRA
HELPING
ON RICE.

COMING
UP.

MUMBLE

SWIF

EVEN IF
THE DORM
COOKS
FEEL THE
SAME WAY...

IT'S
SUFFOCATING.

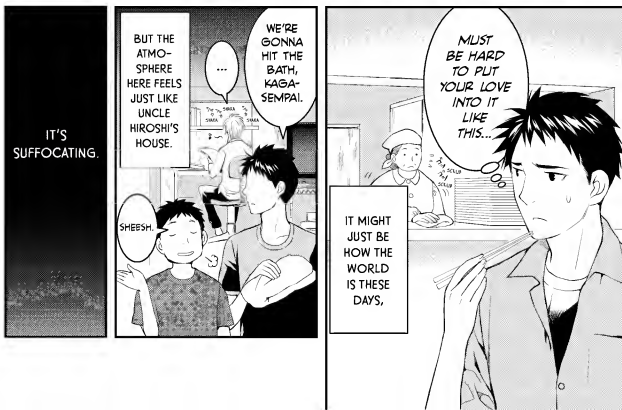
BUT THE
ATMO-
SPHERE
HERE FEELS
JUST LIKE
UNCLE
HIROSHI'S
HOUSE.

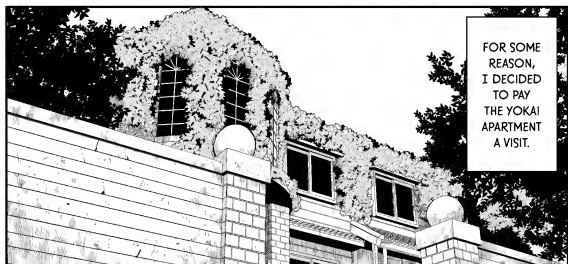
WE'RE
GONNA
HIT THE
BATH,
KAGA-
SEMPAI.

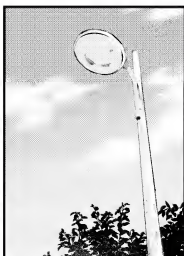
SHEESH.

IT MIGHT
JUST BE
HOW THE
WORLD
IS THESE
DAYS,

MUST
BE HARD
TO PUT
YOUR LOVE
INTO IT
LIKE
THIS...







I HAD
A FEELING
THIS WAS
THE CASE.

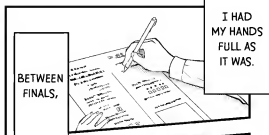






AND
EVENTUALLY
DROPPED
OUT.









A FEW DAYS LATER





HUH?



I HEARD
YOU'VE BEEN
TALKING SHIT
ABOUT ME.



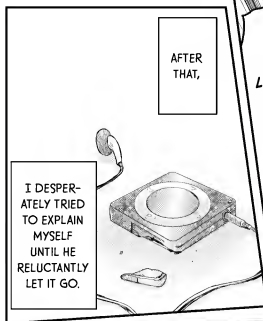
ERR...
W-WAIT!
YOU'VE
GOT THE
WRONG
IDEA!

OH,
YEAH?
HOW
SO?!



WHAT
THE
HELL'S
YOUR
PROBLEM
?!

WHAT
DID I
DO TO
YOU?!



I DESPERATELY TRIED TO EXPLAIN MYSELF UNTIL HE RELUCTANTLY LET IT GO.

AFTER THAT,

THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS!
LISTEN TO ME!

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING ALL KINDS OF SHIT BEHIND MY BACK, RIGHT?! DON'T MESS WITH ME!



THE IDEA THAT SOMEONE WHO HEARD OUR CONVERSATION...



I DECIDED NOT TO TALK ABOUT MYSELF ANYMORE.

THE DAYS JUST PASS BY INDIFFERENTLY...



...DECIDED TO RELAY IT BACK TO KAGA OUT OF SPITE...

...WAS FRANKLY DEPRESSING.



DID I
REALLY
LIVE THERE
FOR HALF
A YEAR?

DID THAT
YOKAI
APARTMENT
REALLY
EXIST?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

I THOUGHT
THAT THOSE
MEMORIES
WOULD
HELP ME IN
SOME WAY.

NOTHING
STAYS THE
SAME
FOREVER.

I JUST
HOPE THAT
EVERYTHING
THAT HAP-
PENED HERE
WILL PROVE
TO BE A GOOD
EXPERIENCE
FOR YOU.

BUT,

NOW...

UP...
TAP



RIGHT
NOW...

...I HAVE
A HARD
TIME
BELIEVING
THAT.







INA-
BA?

...



I FOUND
A NICE
HOLE-IN-THE-
WALL SHRINE,
TOO. LET'S
GET OUR
FIRST VISIT
IN LATER!

I brought
osechi.*



LET'S
BRING IN
THE NEW
YEAR TO-
GETHER!

YOU'VE
GOT
TOMOR-
ROW OFF
FROM
WORK,
RIGHT?

*Osechi: Traditional Japanese New Year's foods.



IT'S
NOTH-
ING!

AH!

WHAT'S UP?
YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'VE
SEEN A
GHOST.



AND
TREAT ME
TO SOME TEA
AND COFFEE
WHILE YOU'RE
AT IT!

YOU
LITTLE
...

LET'S
GET SOME
ODEN**
FROM THE
CONVE-
NIENCE
STORE.

SURE.
I'VE BEEN
FREEZING
MY BUTT
OFF OUT
HERE.

EVERY-
ONE'S
OUT FOR
NEW
YEAR'S
EVE!

COME
ON
IN!

PUSH

**Oden: A winter dish of various ingredients, from vegetables to fish cakes, stewed in a light broth.

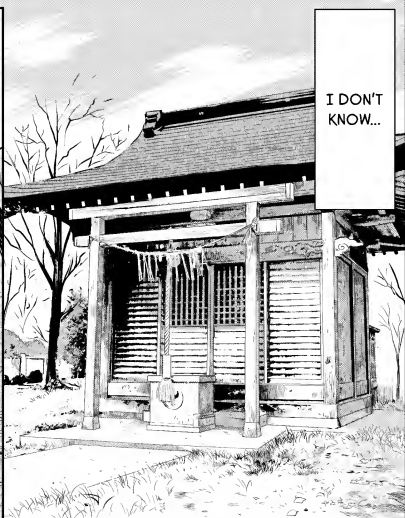




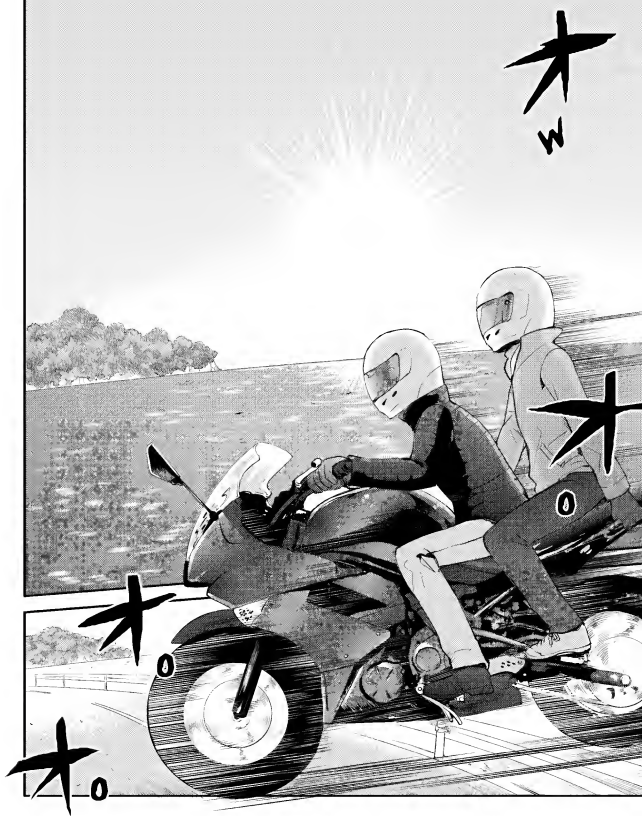
...REALLY
OKAY LIKE
THIS?

AM I...





*Zenzai: A sweet red bean soup.







Elegant Yokai
Apartment Life







カキ
CLACK

HEY,
ISHII.

LET'S
GET
ALONG
THIS
YEAR,
TOO.



THE
THIRD
TERM
HAS
BEGUN.



WELL...

I GUESS
KAGA-
SEMPAI'S
MOVING
INTO AN
APARTMENT.

WHAT'S
THAT?



HA HA
HA HA
HA HA

WHAT
A BABY,
AM I
RIGHT?

HUH...?

LOOKS
LIKE IT'LL
BE JUST US
TWO FOR
THE YEAR!

OH...
I SEE.

SEMPAI
HATED
ME THAT
MUCH?



CH. 8

A Place to Call Home





I THOUGHT
THAT WE WERE
ALONE FOR
DIFFERENT
REASONS.

BUT I
TURNED MY
BACK ON
HIM, TOO.

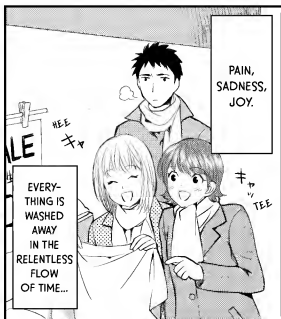
I DIDN'T WANT
MY FEAR AND
DISCONTENT TO
BE ASSOCIATED
WITH HIS
PROBLEMS.



IT'S
ALREADY
TOO
LATE.

BUT
EVEN IF
I REALIZE
THAT
NOW,





...THE MORE
VAGUE THEY
BECOME.

AND THE
MORE
ENJOY-
ABLE THE
MEMORY...





LIVING
THE
"NORMAL"
LIFE I
WANTED
SO
BADLY.

...SO,
AS I
WAS
SAYIN'.

THE
DRINKS
THERE
ARE
FANTAS-
TIC.

I'M
OBSESSED
WITH THE
PLACE!

...THAT'S
A VISION
OF MY
FUTURE
...

I'M
SURE...



HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? HOW ARE THINGS AT THE DORM? BET IT'S NICE TO LIVE IN A BRAND-NEW BUILDING! DID YOU GO SKIING OVER THE BREAK?

Where's your bag?

HMM?
YUSHI-KUN!

SATO-SAN!

...

EVERYONE AT THE APARTMENT'S DOING WELL! THEY'RE ALWAYS WONDERING HOW YOU'RE DOING!

WHO CAN BLAME 'EM? YOU HAVEN'T KEPT IN TOUCH AT ALL!



THAT'S
SO
MEAN!

WHAAAT?
HOW
COULD
YOU,
CHIEF?

HA, HA!
SORRY.
I PROMISE
I'LL MAKE
IT UP TO
YOU.



SORRY,
LADIES.

I'M GONNA
GET DINNER
WITH MY
FRIEND HERE
TONIGHT.

WE'LL
GO OUT
ANOTHER
TIME.



THEY
CALL ME
"SATO
THE GRAY
FOX"!

I'VE BEEN AT
SOIR FOR 20
YEARS! I'M THE
NUMBER ONE
MOST POPULAR
MIDDLE-AGED
STUD AMONG
THE FEMALE
EMPLOYEES.



IT'S FINE.
I'M PRETTY
WELL-LIKED.

A-ARE
YOU
SURE?
WON'T
THEY
HOLD IT
AGAINST
YOU?



SURE!
THANKS IN
ADVANCE
FOR
DINNER!

I KNOW
A GREAT
JAPANESE
RESTAU-
RANT!

AL-
RIGHTY!
LET'S
GET
GOING!

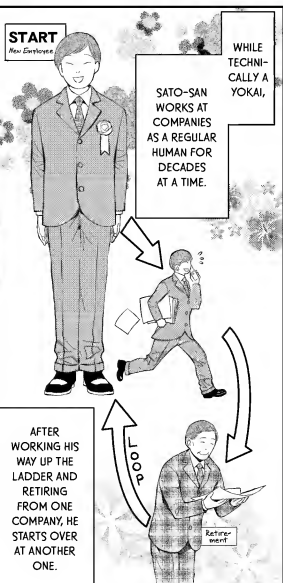
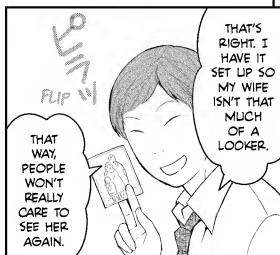
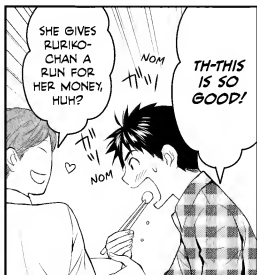


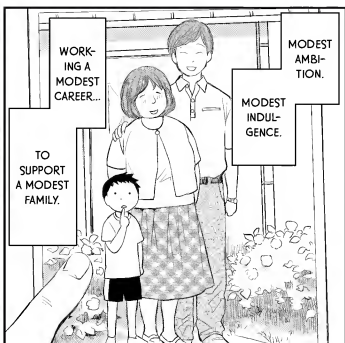
WHEN'S
YOUR
CURFEW?

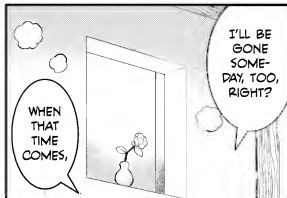
MIDDLE-
AGED
STUD?

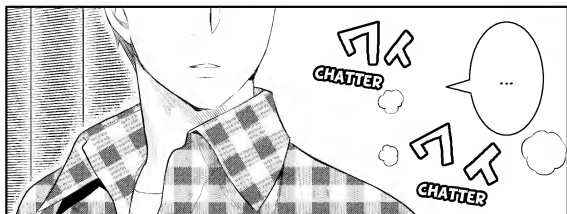
OH...
TEN.















I can even
use smart
phones and
iPods.

I'M
CONSTANTLY
CHANGING,
TOO.

OTHERWISE
I WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
KEEP UP AT
WORK.

ALL YOU
HAVE TO
DO IS
CHANGE!

PEOPLE
CHANGE
WITH THE
TIMES.

I'VE
OBSERVED
HUMANS IN
THE LONG
TERM.

I KNOW,
SINCE WE
YOKAI LIVE
FOR A LOOONG
TIME.

SOB
SOB

BUT
THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN IT'S
HOPE-
LESS.

IT'S TRUE
THAT THESE
ARE PRETTY
ROUGH TIMES
WE LIVE IN,

AND
KIDS LIKE
YOU WILL
BE THE
ONES WHO
CREATE
THOSE
GOOD
TIMES!

GOOD
TIMES WILL
COME
AGAIN.
THAT'S HOW
HISTORY
HAS ALWAYS
REPEATED
ITSELF.



THAT'S
WHY

YOU
SHOULD
LOOK
TO THE
FUTURE.



FAULTS
ARE JUST
A PART
OF WHO
YOU ARE.

YOU
CAN'T
GET
RID OF
THEM.

BUT,

WHAT
YOU CAN
DO IS
CHANGE.

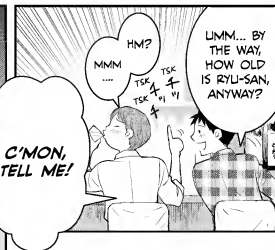


AFTER
ALL...

IT CAN'T
BE HELPED
IF YOU'RE
A LITTLE
GREEDY IN
GETTING
THERE.

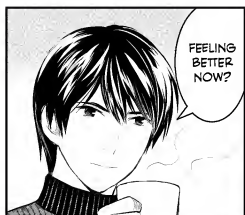
AND
WHEN
YOU FIND
YOUR
DREAM,
PUSH ON
TOWARD
IT!

DREAM!
WITHIN THIS
FINITE TIME,
THERE ARE
INFINITE
POSSIBILITIES!



UHM... BY
THE WAY,
HOW OLD
IS RYU-SAN,
ANYWAY?

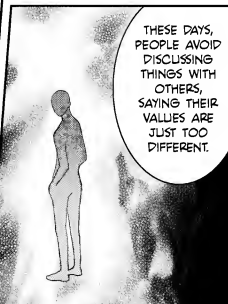






VALUES
TAKE SHAPE
THROUGH
COMPARING
DIFFERENT
VIEWS.

ONLY AFTER
CONSIDERING
DIFFERENT
VIEWPOINTS
CAN YOU REALLY
SAY THAT YOU
HAVE YOUR
OWN VALUES.



THESE DAYS,
PEOPLE AVOID
DISCUSSING
THINGS WITH
OTHERS,
SAYING THEIR
VALUES ARE
JUST TOO
DIFFERENT.



BUT
THAT JUST
MEANS THEY
DON'T WANT
TO LISTEN TO
IDEAS OUTSIDE
OF THEIR
OWN
MINDSET,

AND
THAT'S NO
GOOD.



YOU'RE
PRETTY
SMART,
HUH,
HASE?

OF
COURSE.



FWOOF



IN ORDER
TO SEE
MYSELF
MORE
CLEARLY,

I HAVE
TO LOOK
FROM
DIFFERENT
VIEW-
POINTS.

VRR

THAT'S
RIGHT.

VRUM

...ARE
FINALLY
STARTING
TO BE
PIECED
BACK
TOGETHER.

VRRR

I FEEL
LIKE MY
SHATTERED
FEELINGS...



I JUST
SAW
HASE THE
OTHER
DAY.

WHO
COULD
IT BE?

FOR
ME?

A VISI-
TOR?

MAY



*Obon: A holiday in summer for the purpose of honoring the spirits of one's ancestors.







"HUH,
I GUESS
YUSHI
CAN
ENJOY
HIMSELF,
AFTER
ALL."



YOU
KNOW,
WHEN I
READ THIS,
FOR THE
FIRST TIME I
THOUGHT,



Y-YOU
THINK
SO?



IN THAT
HOUSE.

THAT
JUST GOES
TO SHOW
HOW
UNHAPPY
YOU
SEEMED
...

Clashing in
the bathroom.

BUT
I DIDN'T
UNDER-
STAND
THAT.

I MEAN,
OF COURSE
YOU CAN.
YOU'RE
HUMAN,
TOO.



BUT I
THOUGHT,
"SO,
WHAT?"

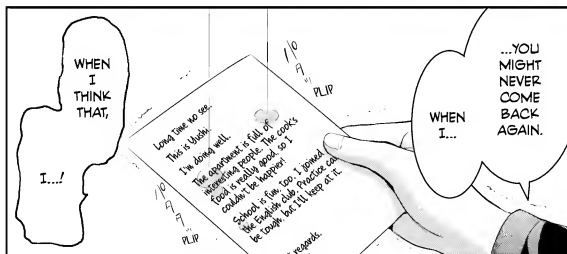
I
HAD TO
PUT UP
WITH IT,
TOO...

YOU WERE
ALWAYS
HOLDING
BACK AND
TRYING TO
BE CONSIDERATE
OF US.

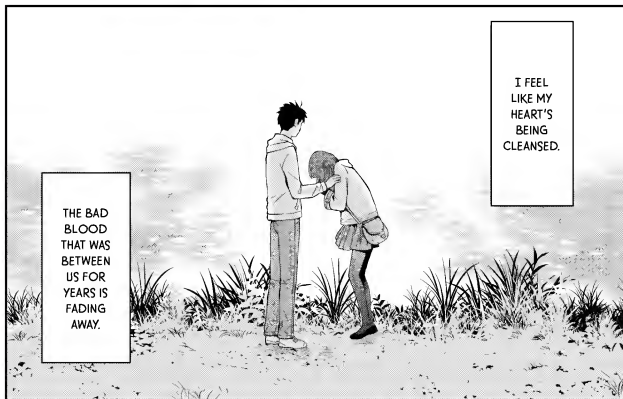
I
KNEW
...



ERI-
CHAN...







THE BAD
BLOOD
THAT WAS
BETWEEN
US FOR
YEARS IS
FADING
AWAY.

I FEEL
LIKE MY
HEART'S
BEING
CLEANSED.



WOULD I
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO
ACCEPT
ERIKO'S
APOLOGY
LIKE THIS?

IF I WAS
THE SAME
AS I WAS
BACK
THEN...



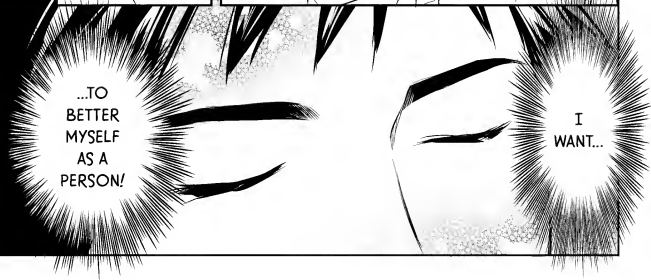
I
WANT...

...TO
EVALUATE
MYSELF
MORE AS
A PERSON.



RIGHT
NOW,

I...



...TO
BETTER
MYSELF
AS A
PERSON!

I
WANT...

THAT'S
WHY,

I
WANT
TO GO
BACK

...





...I'VE
RETURNED!



AND SO...



WELCOME BACK!

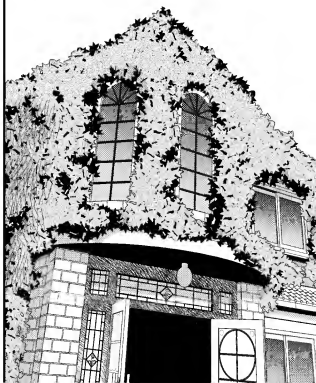


BEFORE,
I DIDN'T
REALLY
CARE ABOUT
GHOSTS OR
YOKAI...

...WHETHER
THEY EXISTED
OR NOT.

BUT NOT
ANYMORE.

***I'M
HOME!***





I
WANT
THEM TO
EXIST
NOW.

BECAUSE
...

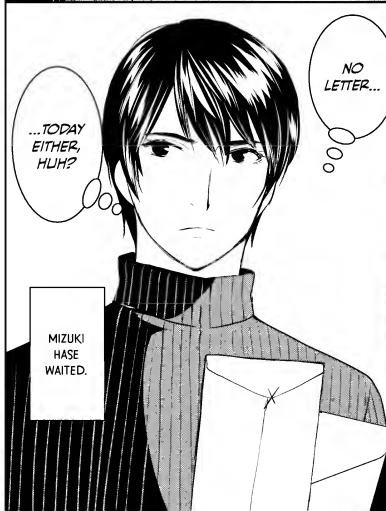
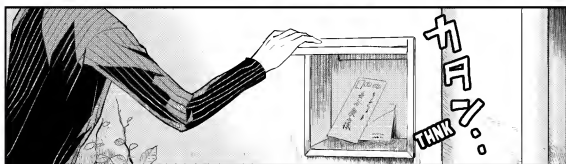
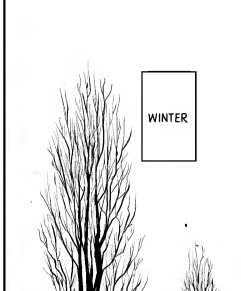
...THEY'RE
MY FUN-
LOVING
FRIENDS!







Side Story: Hase-Kun's Elegant Life

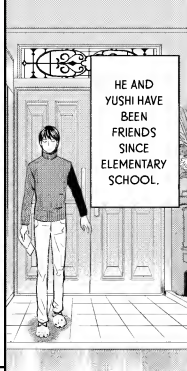




AN
ATTRACTIVE
AND
BRILLIANT
YOUNG
MAN,

HE'S ADORED
BY MANY
AND ALWAYS
SURROUNDED
BY PEOPLE.

A SO-
CALLED
WINNER
IN EVERY
REGARD.

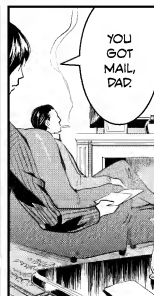


HE AND
YUSHI HAVE
BEEN
FRIENDS
SINCE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.



A KIND
AND GENTLE
HOUSEWIFE.

HIS
MOTHER,
MIZUHA
HASE.



HIS
FATHER,
KEIJI
HASE.

AN ELITE
BUSINESSMAN
WHO HOLDS A
HIGH POSITION
AT A MAJOR
CORPORATION.

OH,
THANKS.
JUST
LEAVE IT
THERE.

MY FEET
ARE KILLING
ME FROM
DOING
SALES RUNS
ALL DAY.

PHEW!
I'M
STARVING!

THUD
/ / /
/ / /
/ / /
OH!
GOOD
TIMING.

AND...

I'M
HOME!

...HIS SISTER,
MIGIWA HASE.
A TALENTED
WOMAN WHO
GRADUATED
FROM A
FIRST-CLASS
UNIVERSITY AND
WORKS FOR
A FIRST-CLASS
COMPANY.

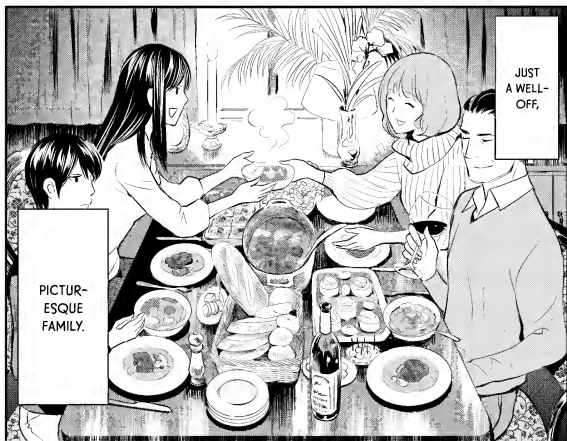
WOULD
YOU OPEN
THE WINE,
MIZUHA?

PERFECT
FOR A
COLD
DAY!

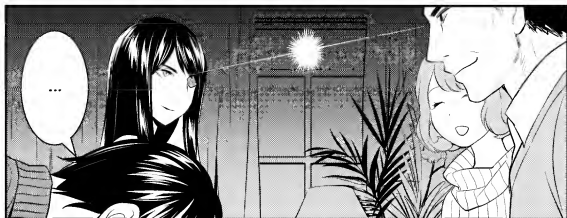
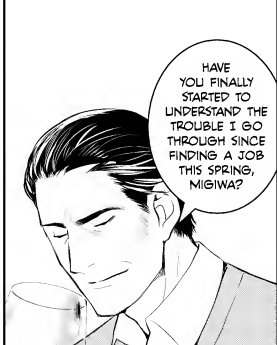
AAH!
BEEF
BURGUN-
DY!

ALL
RIGHT,
LET'S
EAT.

YOU'RE
JUST IN
TIME!







...IS, "EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF."

THE HASE FAMILY MOTTO...

...WERE
BROUGHT
UP TO BE
EXTREMELY
TOUGH.

AND HIS
CHILDREN
...

THEIR FATHER,
KEIJI, RAN AWAY
FROM HIS
FINANCIAL
CONGLOMERATE
FAMILY AND
SPENT HIS LIFE
CLIMBING THE
CORPORATE
LADDER.

Screw
this!

WHAT
OTHER
CHOICE
DID I
HAVE?

WELL,
YOU
IGNORED
ME.

HEY...
YOU COULD
TRY USING
YOUR WORDS
INSTEAD
OF YOUR
MUSCLE,
Y'KNOW!

BA-DOOM

HA,
HA, HA!
THAT'S
RIGHT,
YOU
TWO.

MAKE
SOME-
THING OF
YOUR-
SELVES...

AND
CRAWL
YOUR WAY
UP TO
WHERE I
STAND!

FWIP

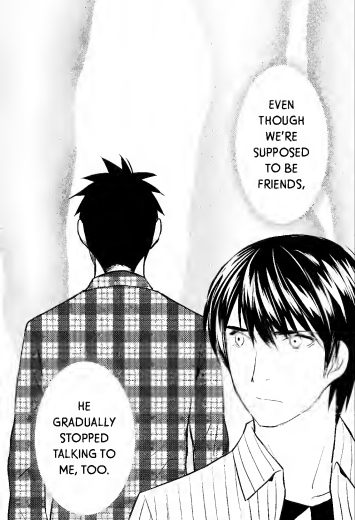
DON'T
FORGET
YOU'RE AT
THE VERY
BOTTOM
OF THIS
FAMILY.

IF YOU
DON'T WANT
TO GET BEAT
UP, THEN
HURRY UP
AND MAKE
SOMETHING
OF YOUR-
SELF!









EVEN
THOUGH
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE
FRIENDS,

HE
GRADUALLY
STOPPED
TALKING TO
ME, TOO.



AS IF
HE'S BEEN
ENDURING
SOMETHING
THIS WHOLE
TIME.



MY
PARENTS
ARE
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU.

HEY, YOU
SHOULD
COME OVER
ONCE IN A
WHILE.



I DON'T
HAVE TIME
TODAY...



NAH,
THAT'S
OKAY.

IT'D PROBABLY BE A PAINFUL REMINDER THAT HE'S ALL ALONE.

IF HE COMES OVER,

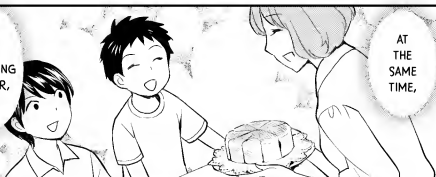
I KNOW THE REAL REASON.



HE KNOWS HE'LL END UP DEPENDING ON OUR KINDNESS, AND HE DOESN'T WANT THAT.

BY COMING OVER,

AT THE SAME TIME,



THAT'S WHAT'S SO FRUSTRATING...



THAT'S THAT KINDA GUY HE IS.

HE'S STRAIGHT-FORWARD AND WON'T BUDGE ONCE HE MAKES UP HIS MIND.



FOR NOW, JUST BE PATIENT AND BELIEVE IN YUSHI.

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LEFT OUT OF THE LOOP.

WHO KNOWS? HE MIGHT PICK HIMSELF UP AND CALL YOU OUT OF THE BLUE.

DAD...

YEAH...

...

...ABOUT HOW YOU NEVER COME OVER ANYMORE.

GET A LOAD OF THIS.

MIZUKI WAS CRYING...

I KNOW! HE'S A BIG BABY, UNLIKE YOU.

HM? OH, NOTHING. JUST TALKING TO THE FAMILY.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE DOING WELL.



**GIMME
THE PHONE
ALREADY,
YOU JERK!**

**YUSHI-
KYUN.**

SWIPE



WHO
ARE YOU
TALKING
TO?

DAD...



PRETTY
MUCH.

FWOO



BOYS
ARE
SUCH A
PAIN.

WHY
DOESN'T
HE GO SEE
HIM IF HE'S
SO WOR-
RIED?



**DON'T
LISTEN
TO
HIM!**

**HELLO?
INABA?!**

**I
WASN'T
CRYING,
OKAY?!**



AND
QUICK
TO GET
BACK UP.



QUICK
TO FALL
DOWN,



THEY'RE
CHILDISH
AND A
HANDFUL.



THAT'S
WHY THEY'RE
A BLAST!







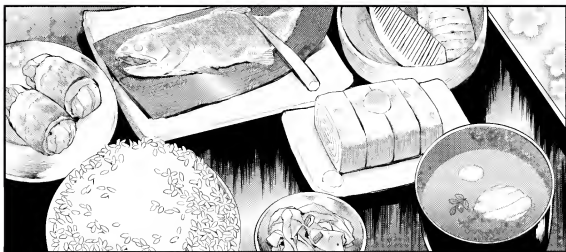


I'VE
RETURNED!

MORNING,
YUSHI-KUN!

AT
LAST...

MORNING,
SUZUKI-
SAN.



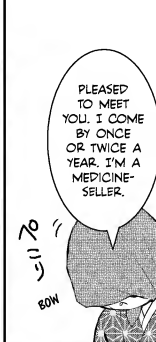






NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO...

AH...



PLEASD TO MEET YOU. I COME BY ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR. I'M A MEDICINE-SELLER.

51170
BOW



THAT'S YUSHI INABA. HE'S A SECOND-YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.

OH? AND WHO MIGHT THIS BE?

TWITCH



OH, NO. YOU'RE TOO KIND, ISSHIKI-SAN.

HIS MEDICINE WORKS WONDERS! WHY DON'T YOU GET SOMETHING, TOO, YUSHI-KUN?



HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

UMM... APOTHECARY?



...



YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY.

YOU SHOULD KNOW IT'S GONNA BE ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE.

HEH HEH



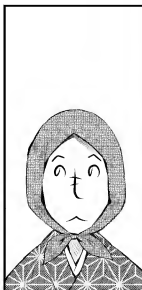
HEY.



I
THOUGHT
SO!

OH,
OKAY!

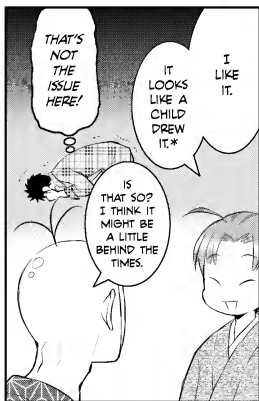
AH, HOW
EMBAR-
RASSING!
THAT'S
RIGHT.
THIS IS
INDEED
A MASK.



IS THAT...
A MASK
YOU'RE
WEARING?



WELL...



THAT'S
NOT
THE
ISSUE
HERE!

IT
LOOKS
LIKE A
CHILD
DREW
IT.*

I
LIKE
IT.

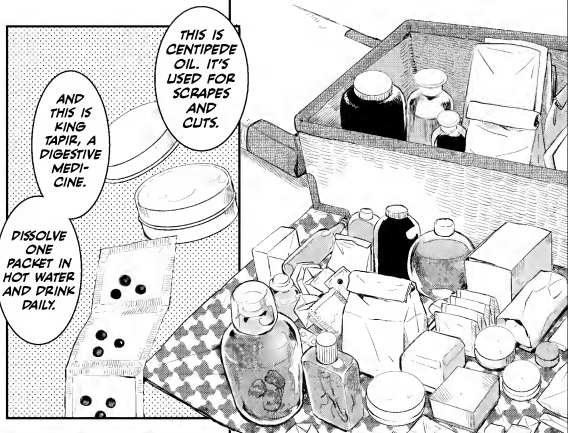
IS
THAT SO?
I THINK IT
MIGHT BE
A LITTLE
BEHIND THE
TIMES.



I THINK
THIS MASK
MIGHT BE
GETTING
A LITTLE
OLD.

MAYBE
IT'S
ABOUT
TIME I
GET A
NEW
ONE.

*Note: this face is based on *henohenomoheji*, a face made of hiragana characters often doodled by children.



THIS IS CENTIPEDE OIL. IT'S USED FOR SCRAPES AND CUTS.

AND THIS IS KING TAPIR, A DIGESTIVE MEDICINE.

DISSOLVE ONE PACKET IN HOT WATER AND DRINK DAILY.

AAAH. THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT INGREDIENT.

I SEE STUFF LIKE CICADA HUSKS, TOO...

THAT'S QUITE A NAME...

IT'S FOR VITALITY!
BEAR KILLER.

WHAT'S THIS?

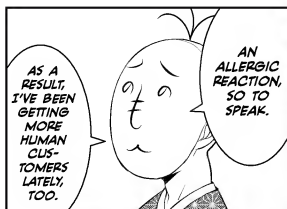
IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC THAT USES ONLY NATURAL INGREDIENTS.

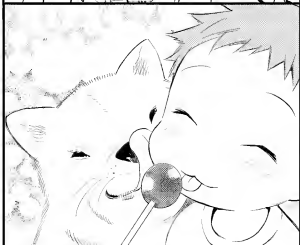
IT USED TO BE THE BASIS FOR ALL MEDICINE.

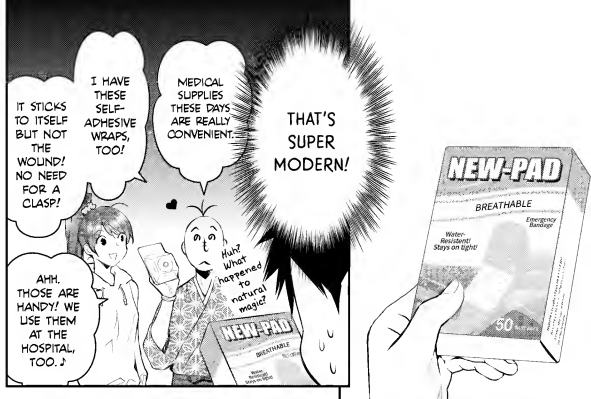
"MAGIA NATURALIS."

IT'S GREAT FOR EAR INFECTIONS.

YOU USE IT BY GRINDING IT INTO A POWDER AND MIXING IT WITH OINTMENT.





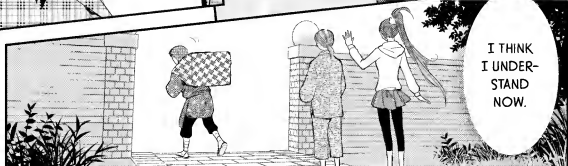
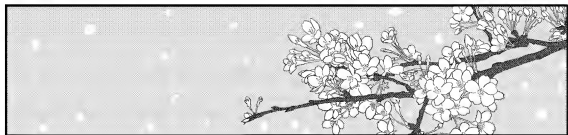


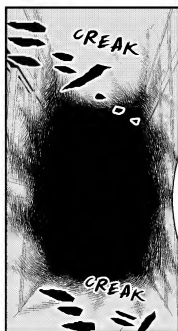
RYU-
SAN...

"YOU HAVE
YOUR WHOLE
LIFE AHEAD
OF YOU, AND
THE WORLD
IS MORE
VAST THAN
YOU CAN
IMAGINE."

"JUST
RELAX AND
ENJOY THE
JOURNEY."

I THINK
I UNDER-
STAND
NOW.







GROWN
MEN DON'T
WANNA
PART WITH
A MEASELY
25,000
YEN*...



ME,
NEITHER!
CAN YOU
WAIT UNTIL
NEXT
WEEK?

LIKE
I SAID, I
JUST CAME
BACK FROM
A TRIP AND
DON'T HAVE
ANY CASH
ON ME!



OH,
RIGHT!
IT'S
RENT
DAY!

ガ
チ

CLACK

* Approx. 250 USD.



AND IT'S
SUNDAY
TOMORROW,
SO I'LL GET
HIT WITH AN
ATM FEE...

I'LL HAVE
TO WITHDRAW
MORE MONEY
TOMORROW
IF I PAY THE
RENT TODAY.



THEN
AGAIN



KNOCK

KNOCK



BUT
HE'LL
HAVE TO
COME
BACK
ANOTHER
DAY.

FW AP

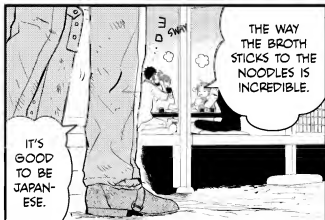
I FEEL
BAD
FOR THE
LAND-
LORD,



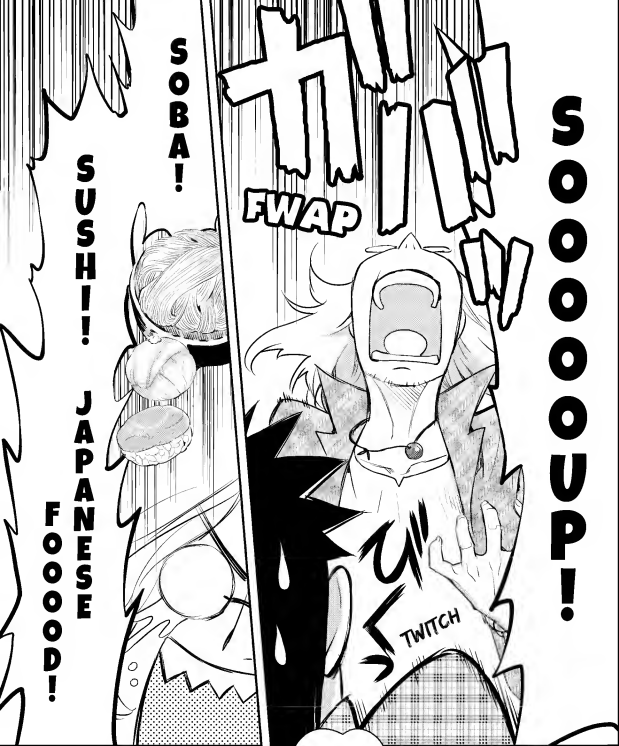




* Ankake: A type of thick, starchy sauce.











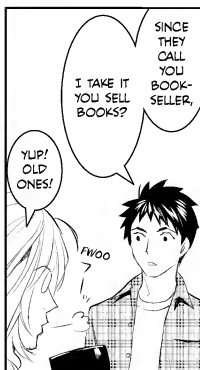
I
COULDN'T
FIND IT IN
THE END,

I
SEE
...

BUT I
DID FIND
SOME VERY
INTRIGUING
BOOKS LIKE
THE DEAD
SEA SCROLLS,
LIBER INVESTI-
GATIONIS, AND
POLYGRAPHIA!*

THIS TIME,
I WAS AFTER
THE BLACK
MADONNA,
A BOOK OF
INCANTATIONS
THAT
COMBINES
ANCIENT
CHRISTIAN
AND NATIVE
AFRICAN
FAITHS.

Don't
point your
chopsticks
at people.



YUP!
OLD
ONES!

I TAKE IT
YOU SELL
BOOKS?

SINCE
THEY
CALL
YOU
BOOK-
SELLER,

FWOO

*See Translation Notes



THEY
CERTAINLY
DO EXIST!

...A-AREN'T
THOSE SUPER
FAMOUS BOOKS
OF MAGIC
THAT ONLY
QUESTIONABLY
EXIST?

FWAP



OH,
MAN.

ANOTHER
FISHY
CHARAC-
TER!

THOUGH
YOU CAN'T
GET YOUR
HANDS
ON IT
THROUGH
LEGIT
CHANNELS!

THE
NECRO-
NOMICON
IS REAL,
TOO!

HA
HA
HA

HA
HA
HA

HA
HA
HA



IT'S SAID
TO HAVE BEEN
WRITTEN BY
ROGER BACON
IN THE 13TH
CENTURY.

IT'S A
COPY OF A
MANUSCRIPT
DISCOVERED IN
A TEMPLE IN
1912 BY A USED
BOOKSTORE
OWNER NAMED
WILFRID
VOYNICH.

THIS
ONE'S
REALLY
SPECIAL!



DOOM

CONTAINED WITHIN
ARE DRAWINGS OF
SUNFLOWERS, WHICH
WEREN'T INTRODUCED IN
EUROPE UNTIL THE 15TH
CENTURY, AND IDEAS THAT
WERE UNTHINKABLE AT
THE TIME, LIKE THE
FERTILIZATION OF EGGS
VIA SPERM AND
EVEN A MAP OF THE
ANDROMEDA GALAXY!

THE
VOYNICH
MANUSCRIPT,
ONE OF
THE RAREST
OF RARE
BOOKS!

THERE'S
EVEN 120
DAYS OF
SODOM
IN HERE.

OOH!
YOU
HAVE AN
ORIGINAL
COPY OF
VENUS IN
FURS.

HEEY!
MAKE SURE
YOU PUT THEM
BACK IF
YOU'RE NOT
GONNA BUY
THEM!



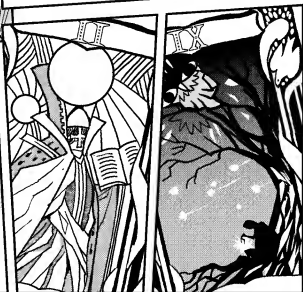
THAT
MYSTERY
IS WHAT
MAKES IT
A RARE
BOOK!

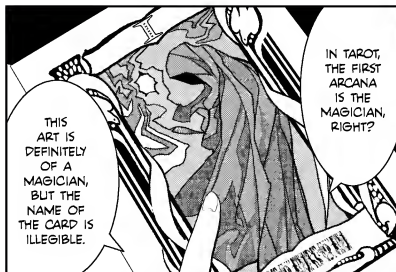
HOW
EXACTLY DID
THAT ROGER
BACON GUY
KNOW ABOUT
SUNFLOWERS
AND
ANDROMEDA?



What's
with
that
pose?

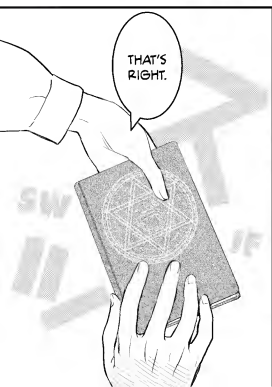
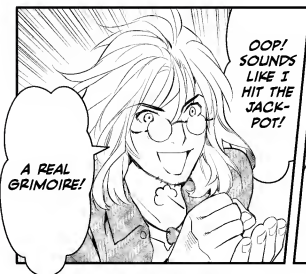


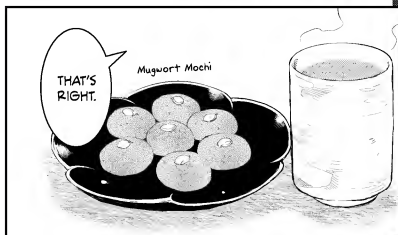




IN TAROT, THE FIRST ARCANUM IS THE MAGICIAN, RIGHT?

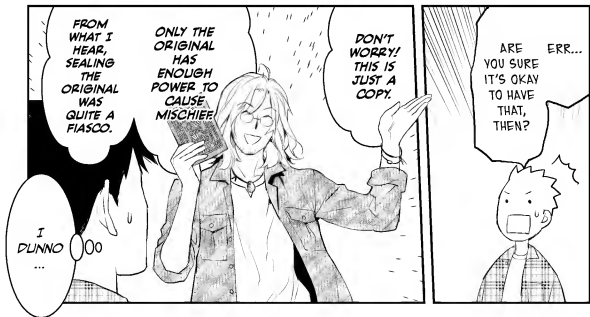
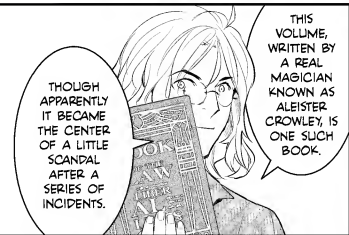


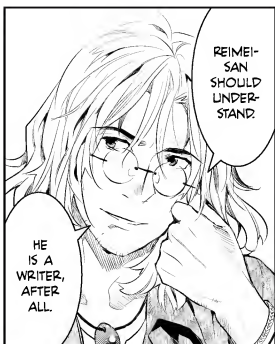






IN ENGLAND, PARAPSYCHOLOGY IS CONSIDERED A LEGITIMATE SCIENCE, WITH "MAGICIAN" AS A RECOGNIZED PROFESSION WITH THEIR OWN SOCIAL STATUS.







* Kotodama: "Spirit of words."





I COULD
BECOME
ANYTHING
I WANTED
TO BE.

AN
ADVEN-
TURER, A
WARRIOR,
A DETEC-
TIVE...

I COULD
VISIT ANY
WORLD
I WANTED
TO.



WHEN I WAS
LIVING IN MY
OWN LITTLE
BUBBLE AT
MY UNCLE'S
HOUSE,

HE'S
RIGHT.

MY ONE
JOY WAS
READING.

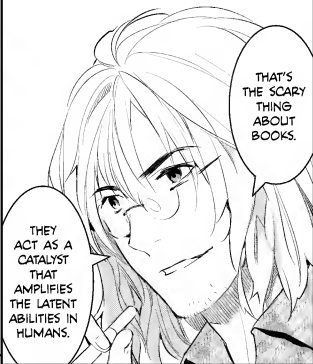
Back at his uncle's.
Kinda cramped.

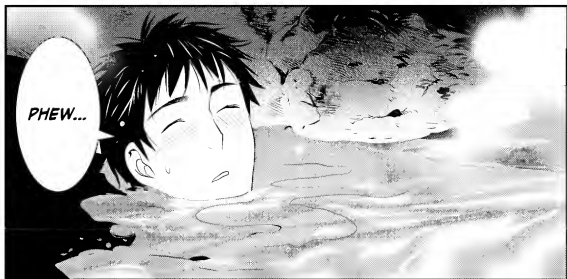
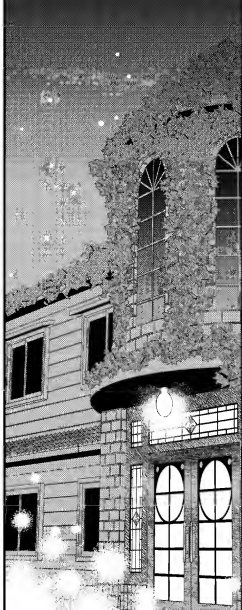
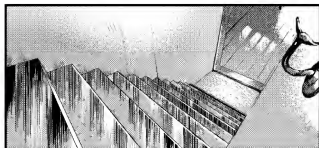


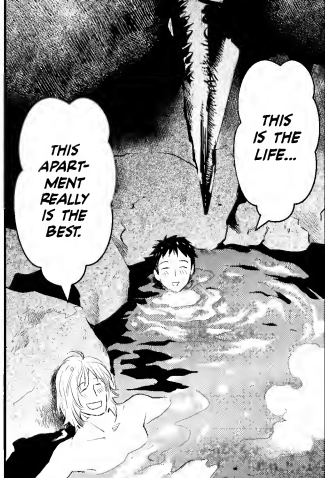
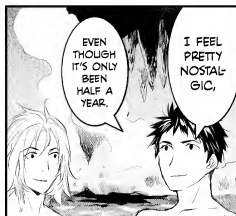
AND
AMONG
THEM,

THERE
MIGHT BE
SOME WHO
ACTUALLY
MANAGE IT.

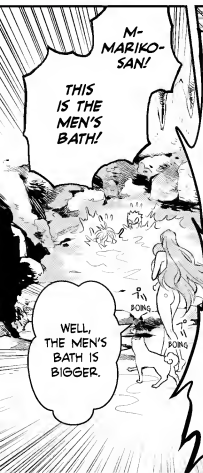
THERE ARE
PROBABLY A LOT
OF PEOPLE WHO
TRY TO SUMMON
A DEMON FOR
THEMSELVES
AFTER READING
THE RITUALS IN
THIS TOME.



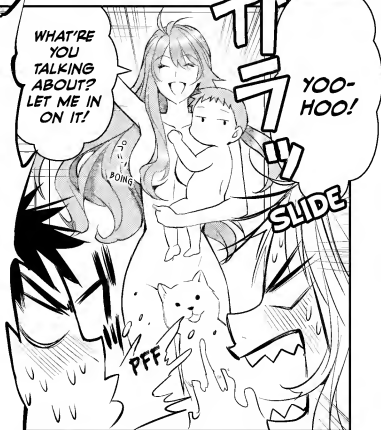




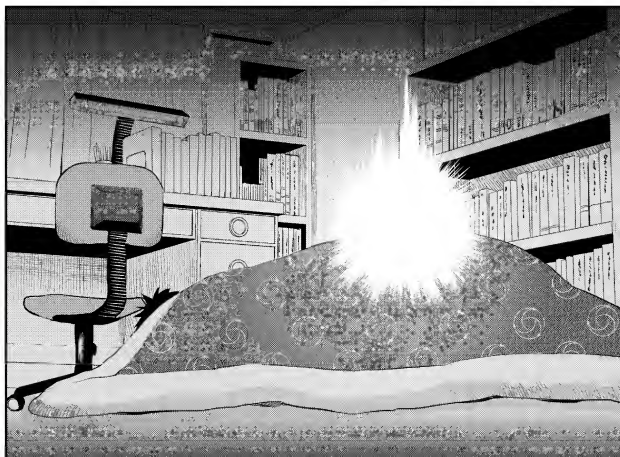
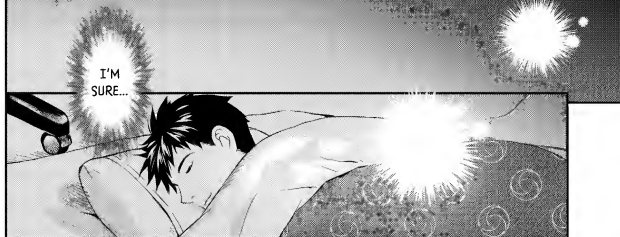


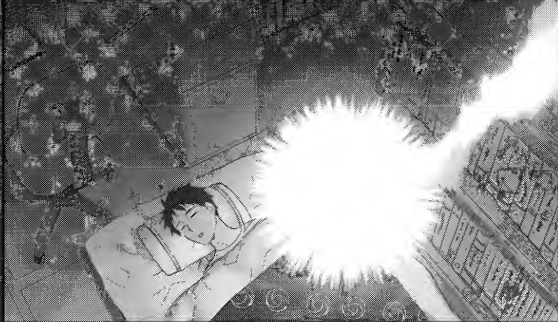


**D
W
A
A
A
H
!**











IT IS AN
HONOR TO
MEET YOU.

MASTER.

CH. 10 Petit Hierozolcon (Vol. 1)

GOOD
EVENING.

HUH?

WHA...?

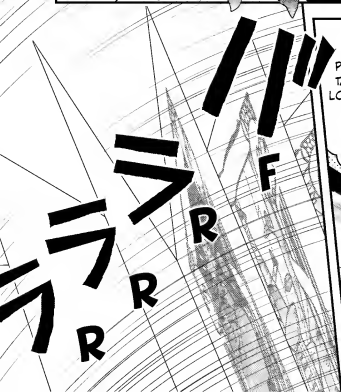
ERR...

I
COULD'VE
SWORN
I FELL
ASLEEP.











WH-
WHAT
THE
?!

CONGRAT-
ULATIONS,
MASTER!

THE SEAL
PLACED
UPON THIS
BOOK HAS
JUST BEEN
BROKEN.

YOU ARE,
WITHOUT
A DOUBT,
OUR
MASTER!

THE
SEAL...

...BROKE?



IN ITS
PAGES ARE
SEALED 78
DEMONS
SUMMONED
FROM
ANOTHER
DIMENSION
BY A GREAT
SORCERER.

HE WHO
WIELDS THE
BOOK HAS
THE POWER
TO INVOKE
THESE DEMONS
AT WILL.



IN THIS
WORLD,
THERE EXISTS
A GREAT
GRIMOIRE
KNOWN AS
THE *HIERO-
ZOICON*.*

* Hierozoicon: a 'sacred bestiary'.

THIS BOOK
IS KNOWN
AS THE *PETIT
HIEROZOICON*.



NOW,
THEN.

コホー
AHEM

WOW...

THAT'S
COOL...



IN ITS
PAGES ARE
SEALED 22
DEMONS
SUMMONED
FROM
ANOTHER
DIMENSION.

IT IS A
GENUINE
GRIMOIRE!

THIS BOOK
IS AN IMA-
TATION OF
THE HIEROZOICON
CREATED BY
A DIFFERENT
MAGICIAN.

INDEED!



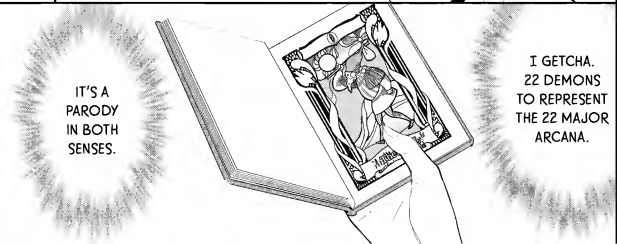
HUH?

THEN
YOU
MEAN
...



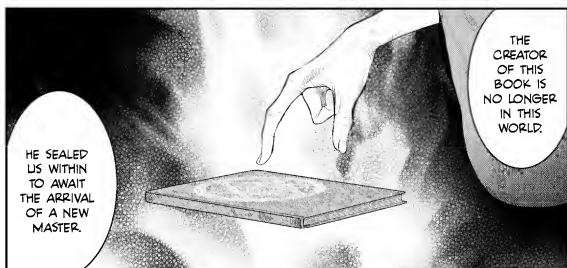
THAT'S
AWESOME!

WOW...



IT'S A
PARODY
IN BOTH
SENSES.

I GETCHA.
22 DEMONS
TO REPRESENT
THE 22 MAJOR
ARCANA.



HE SEALED
US WITHIN
TO AWAIT
THE ARRIVAL
OF A NEW
MASTER.

THE
CREATOR
OF THIS
BOOK IS
NO LONGER
IN THIS
WORLD.



...UNDER
THE GUISE
OF A
SIMPLE
PICTURE
BOOK.

SINCE
THEN, WE
HAVE PASSED
BETWEEN
MANY HANDS
OVER MANY
MOONS...

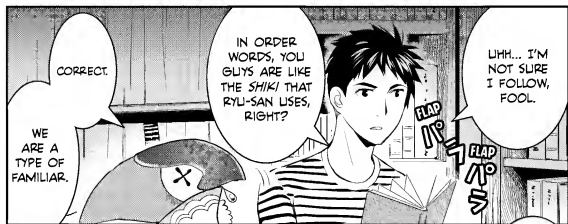


WE ARE
YOURS TO
COMMAND!

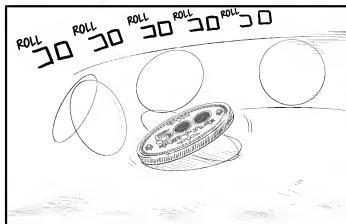
LORD
YUSHI
INABA,
OUR NEW
MASTER!

HOW-
EVER,

AT LAST,
WE HAVE
REACHED
THE END
OF OUR
JOURNEY!









...

JIN IS LACKING IN STAMINA AND WILL BE UNAVAILABLE TO USE FOR A WHILE, YES.

AS WE ARE "PETIT," OUR POWERS ARE LITTLE, ACCORDINGLY.



...THAT'S IT?

YES.



SHYLPH!

THE SPIRIT OF WIND!

THE HIGH PRIESTESS, SHYLPHY.



LET'S JUST MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE.



...



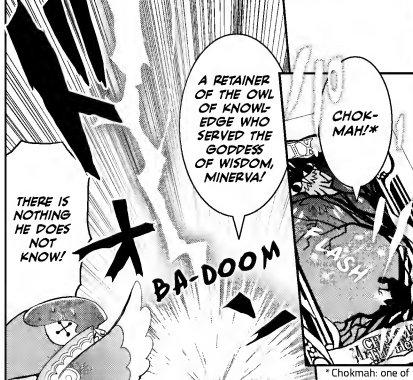
Kuron went flying.

SHOOP



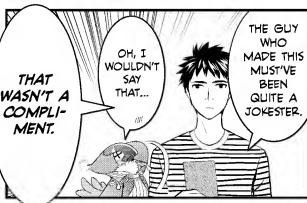
GWOH

KRSH



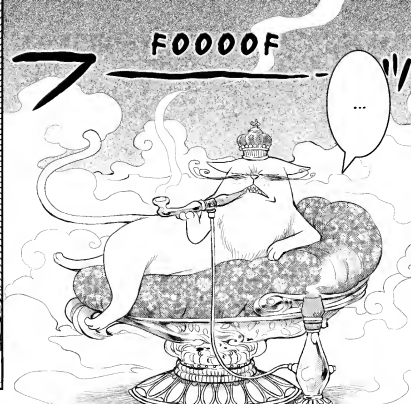
* Chokmah: one of the 'enumerations' of the mystical tradition of the Sephirot.







HOW
LAZY
CAN
YOU
GET?!



F0000F



IT'S
GONNA
RAIN
TOMOR-
ROW.



LET'S
TALK
SOME
OTHER
TIME.

I'M
GONNA
GO TO
SLEEP
NOW.

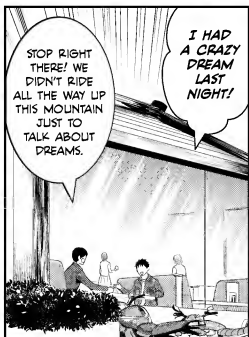
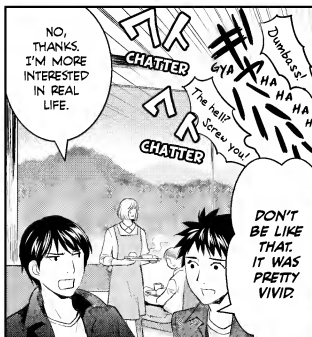
SURE,
WHAT-
EVER.

YOU'RE
GONNA
GET
REJECTED
BY A GIRL
TOMORROW,
KID!

CAIT SITH!
YOU CAN'T
JUST CALL
OUR MASTER
"KID"!



キラ
TWINKLE









TO BE CONTINUED IN *ELEGANT YOKAI APARTMENT LIFE* VOLUME THREE.

Character Backgrounds

[illegible]

*See notes

Ruriko-san's
Cooking
Menu

The deadliest trap during the drawing process?! The more delicious I try to make the food look, the hungrier I get (lol). I really wish I had Ruriko-san at home.



▲ In order to exhibit a sense of careful preparation and refined flavor of the *oden* at the Japanese restaurant Sato-san frequents, I drew the daikon radish with trimmed edges and as if the ingredients had been simmering until fork-tender.

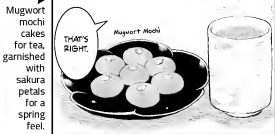


▲ Yushi's first meal at the *yokai* apartment in half a year!

To show Ruriko-san's excitement, I drew tender stewed bamboo shoots, dried sweetfish, spring cabbage meat rolls, dashi-seasoned *tanagayaki*, miso soup with icefish, pickled cabbage, and a heaping bowl of freshly steamed rice!



▲ I drew the *hanami* meal to be intentionally resplendent. The soba comes in two varieties, *ankake* dashi with shrimp, and squid and spring vegetable tempura. The *temari* sushi balls come in three types: sea bream, salmon, and refreshing pickled daikon radish. I'd like to view the sakura over a meal like this, too (lol).

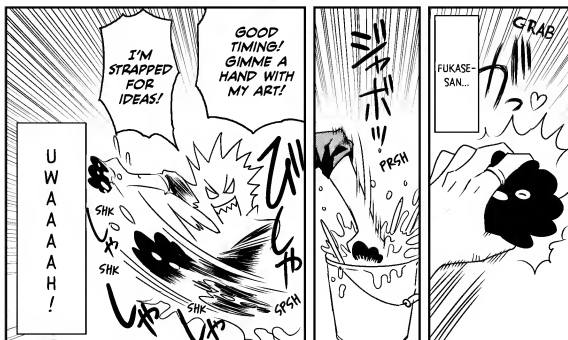
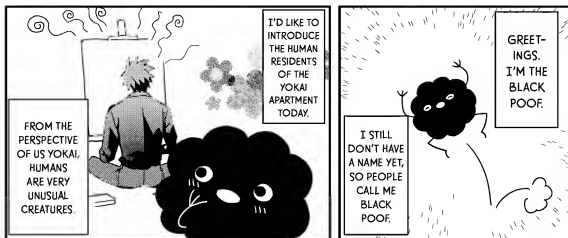


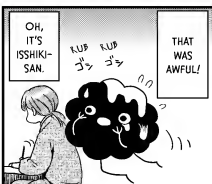
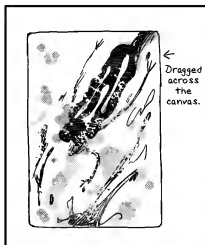
► Mugwort mochi cakes for tea, garnished with sakura petals for a spring feel.



▲ Hase-kun's family is wealthy, so I drew an intricate western meal. Caesar salad with multiple varieties of French bread, olives and salmon hors d'oeuvres. The main dish is beef burgundy using beef cheek.

Elegant Apartment Living





Translation Notes

The many books of Bookseller

[143-145]

120 Days of Sodom – An infamous novel written by the Marquis de Sade dealing with graphic sexual themes.

Dead Sea Scrolls – A series of ancient texts dating as far back as 8th century BCE discovered in the Qumran Caves. The scrolls' contents largely consist of manuscripts of Hebrew Bible canon.

Liber Investigatonis – Full title: *Liber Investigatonis Magisterii*, a book attributed to the 13th century Arabian alchemist Geber. The title also appears in Lovecraftian mythos.

Necronomicon – A fictional book of sorcery invented by H.P. Lovecraft that is featured in many other works.

Polygraphia – A cryptographic work published by Johannes Trithemius in 1518 dealing with mystic alphabets.

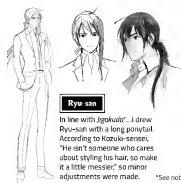
Venus in Furs – An 1870 erotic novella by Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, whose name the term masochism is derived from.



Ryu-san and Jigokudo

[188]

Jigokudo (full title: *Jigokudo Reikai Tsushin*) is a series of novels written by *Elegant Yokai Apartment Life*'s own Hinowa Kozuki, which features a character by the name of Soryu Fujikado, a tall, handsome mystic with long black hair pulled back into a ponytail. The character's resemblance in both name and appearance to Ryu-san in *Elegant Yokai Apartment Life* has led to theories suggesting that the two characters are in fact one and the same.



Elegant Yokai Apartment Life 2

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Editing by Sarah Tilson

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